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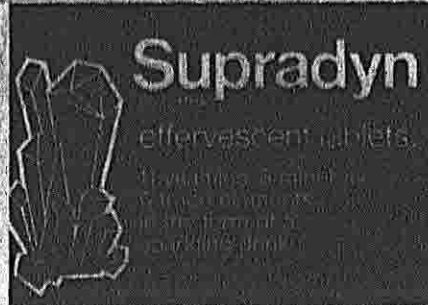
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Thant To Inform LBJ Of Mediation Efforts Observers Believe He Will Have No Surprises In Store

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17, (DPA)—UN Secretary General U Thant will meet U.S. President Lyndon Johnson on Wednesday to inform America's chief executive about his efforts to arrange peace talks on Vietnam.

White House Press Secretary George Christian in making the announcement Friday said that Thant had requested the meeting with the president, which would probably take place in the White House.

Political observers consider the relatively long pause between Thant's arrival Thursday and the date set for the meeting as an indication that he has no surprises in store from his mediation efforts.

Thant informed Arthur Goldberg, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Friday night of the results of his exchanges abroad, Reuter reports.

Goldberg told reporters that his 80-minute conversation with Thant was "a very useful" exchange of views.

The White House said that du-

ring his talk with Goldberg, U Thant "indicated he would welcome a meeting with the president, as he has done in the past few days with other heads of state."

Thant conferred last Wednesday in Paris with Mai Van Bo, North Vietnam's chief envoy in Europe.

During his tour he also talked with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin, British Prime Minister Harold Wilson and French President Charles de Gaulle.

Reports from the United Nations Thursday said he had found no weakening of North Vietnam's rejection of President Johnson's San Antonio formula for peace talks.

Ceasefire Arranged After Israel Bombs Jordanian River Units, Refugee Centres

AMMAN, Feb. 17, (AFP)—Refugee camps on the east bank of the River Jordan "licked their wounds" Friday after a ceasefire was arranged following of Thursday night's Israeli bombardments.

Damage inflicted on the centres, sheltering thousands of refugees, was considerable. But among the greatest confusion helpers were trying to restore order.

First estimates of the damage were obviously too modest.

Hundreds of families, panic-stricken by the artillery pounding and the bombs dropped by Israeli planes, fled in the night towards the Amman plateau and in other directions. Most affected were the camps near Irbid, in North Jordan, and those of Karamah and Chunch, near Jericho and Allenby Bridge, about half way along the ceasefire line.

Hundreds of tents were destroyed. The installations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) were wholly or partly demolished.

Schools, clinics, food stores and buildings for the treatment of refugees were nothing but "heaps of ruins."

Refugees themselves said that the casualties were much higher than the official reports said.

Efforts yesterday concentrated on trying to prevent a new flight of refugees from the valley towards the plateau. In that area it is difficult to care for them.

Warsaw Pact Chief Says Forces Meet All Needs

MOSCOW, Feb. 17, (Tass)—Marshal Ivan Yakubovsky said that "the armed forces of the socialist coalition fully meet modern requirements."

"The armies of socialist countries are superior to NATO armies in all key aspects," said the commander-in-chief of the joint forces of the Warsaw Pact at a military and scientific conference here.

He stressed that military co-operation of socialist countries is a factor of great importance for the successful building of socialism and communism.

"While strengthening their national armed forces and building up their economic strength, the socialist countries are steadily increasing the might of the whole community of socialist nations."

The conference, devoted to the 50th anniversary of the Soviet armed forces, is attended by military delegations from socialist countries.

The socialist countries do not favour any division of the world into military groupings, Marshal Yakubovsky said "they are advocating consistently collective security in Europe and other regions of the world."

Royal Audience

KABUL, Feb. 17 (Bakhtar)—The following were received in audience by His Majesty during the week ending Thursday, February 15:

First Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Dr. Ali Ahmad Popal; Second Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Yafali; Finance Minister Mohammad Anwar Ziaee; Planning Minister Dr. Abdul Samad Hamid; Minister Without Portfolio Dr. Abdul Wahid Sorabi; Tribal Affairs Department President Sayed Masoud Pohanyar; chief-in-joint-staff Lt. Gen. Ghulam Farouq; Air Defence Commander Lt. Gen. Abdul Razaq; the Foreign Ministry advisor Mohammad Mousa Shafiq; Balkh Governor Dr. Mohammad Nasser Keshawar; city planning town construction President Mohammad Sarwar Omar; Parwan Governor Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi; dean of the College of Medicine and Pharmacy Dr. Abdul Wali Zaki; Miss Razia Khairzadah, a pharmacy graduate of Lille University Dr. Zabihullah El-tezam, economics graduate of Michigan University and Mohammad Shafie Nabizadah a graduate of Munich University.

His Majesty also received Konstantine Alexanderov, ambassador of the Soviet Union in Kabul.

Public Health Institute Hosts Anti-Locust Conference

TEACHER TRAINING FILM PLANNED

By Our Reporter
KABUL, Feb. 17:—Preliminary consultations are underway between the Ministry of Education's Audio Visual Department and UNICEF on the possibilities of making an educational film on new teaching methods.

Erskine Childers, UNICEF advisor and consultant in charge of Human Resources and Mass Communications Unit in Asia, stationed in Bangkok is here to study local resources and hold talks with Afghan Films, and UNICEF.

Childers believes that this film will be the first of its kind to be made in the region.

He has assisted film making units in a number of Asian and African countries on subjects of health, agriculture, education and vocational training.

The projects, Childers believes is of immense importance because it is an "essential link in the chain of development."

Films on education made in other countries are shown regularly by the Audio Visual Department of the Ministry of Education in different schools.

But he said one made in the country will have more impact because it will serve as a direct communications link among the Teacher training academies in link pursuing new teacher training methods.

Filming will start in 1969. The film will be shot in colour with complete sound effects. The cost cannot be calculated at present, for it depends on the amount of Afghan resources available, he said.

Besides being a study model film for Afghan schools it will also serve as a publicity film for Afghanistan in other countries he added.

De Gaulle, Kiesinger Favour Eventual UK Entry Into EEC

PARIS, Feb. 17, (Reuter)—France and West Germany have agreed on the broad lines of an economic arrangement "to pave the way for Britain's eventual entry into the Common Market."

The proposed arrangement was thrashed out during two days of talks here between President de Gaulle and West German Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger.

A West German spokesman said the plan could lead "towards a kind of free trade zone" in Western Europe.

A four point Franco-German declaration said the two governments wanted to enlarge the European Community as soon as the applicants were in a position to join effectively or become closer with the community in another form.

"This applies particularly to Britain, and means that the evolution already begun by this country should continue," the declaration said.

Until this enlargement became possible, the two governments were ready to consider arrangements aimed at the development of trade in both the agricultural

and industrial fields between the six Common Market countries and the four prospective members of the community—Britain, Denmark, Norway and Ireland. These arrangements would include a reduction of trade obstacles for industrial products.

President de Gaulle told the German delegation at Thursday's final meeting: "There would be a great advantage for Europe if Britain could one day join our organisation. It would be an advantage for our economic capacity and, who knows, may be so for our political capacity some day."

Kiesinger in Bonn stated he was satisfied with the results of the two day meeting. DPA reports.

Speaking at an airport press conference Kiesinger said new ground had been won in many respects, but no one would have expected that, under the prevailing conditions, we could have secured France's consent to Britain's immediate entry in the European Common Market or to the immediate opening of entry negotiations.

Vance Says S. Korean Talks Were Useful

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17, (Reuter)—Presidential envoy Cyrus Vance declined to say Thursday night that he had reached a meeting of the minds with South Korean President Chung Hee Park on the type of response to "future North Korean sabotage in the South."

Vance returned from his mission to Seoul and reported immediately to President Johnson and leading administration advisers in the White House.

Speaking to reporters after the 70-minute conference at the White House, Vance said he felt his exchanges with President Park were "very useful and that there is a good understanding between us with respect to their views and them of ours."

He gave this reply when asked specifically if he felt a meeting of the minds had been reached.

President Park and members of his government believe that North Korean sabotage should be met with instant retaliation from the United States and South Korea.

Vance acknowledged that there were "some people" in South Korea who held that view and said he supposed a number of them had not changed their mind despite his mission to Seoul.

The South Korean government meanwhile gave its approval Thursday to the United States to continue secret talks with North Korea about the release of the U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo.

The Seoul government had been

KABUL, Feb. 17, (Bakhtar)—The International Regional Conference on Desert Locusts in which Afghanistan, Iran, India and Pakistan will participate, opened in the Public Health Institute in Kabul today.

The conference, organised under the auspices of the World Food and Agriculture Organisation, is the fourth annual conference on locust control in Southwest Asia. It will last four days.

The executive committee of the conference will meet on Wednesday, said Abdullah Faizyar, president of plant protection of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

The participants will discuss the reports on the desert locust seen in Africa and Saudi Arabia and will adopt measures on combating them. Recent reports also indicate that desert locust have been observed in over a scattered area of 500 km. sq. in western Iran.

Africans Threaten Boycott Olympic Committee Re-admits S. Africa To Mexican Games

GRENOBLE, Feb. 17, (Reuter)—The Mexico City Olympics in October are threatened by a mass boycott which could jeopardise the future of the Olympics following the International Olympic Committee's decision to re-admit South Africa.

Several African countries have already threatened not to send

teams to the Mexico City games if South Africa were allowed to take part and that the Soviet Union also might stay away over the South African issue.

The Soviet Union and the United States normally dominate the games and a Soviet withdrawal would considerably lessen the attraction and value of the Olympics.

The IOC's decision Thursday

night to lift the ban imposed on South Africa for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics was believed to have been approved by a majority of only half a dozen votes. The ballot was secret.

In re-admitting the South Africans, the IOC made clear its decision applied only to the Mexico City Olympics and it would take another vote before the next games in Munich in 1972.

South Africa won re-admission because the government made five concessions under which it promised its team would be integrated, travel together, stay together and be chosen by the same racially-mixed selection panel.

Commerce Minister Returns From UNCTAD

KABUL, Feb. 17, (Bakhtar)—Dr. Noor Ali the Commerce Minister returned here Thursday after attending the UNCTAD meeting in Delhi as head of the Afghan delegation which is now being led by Ataulah Naser Zia Afghan ambassador in Delhi and deputy head of the delegation.

Dr. Noor Ali said here that Afghanistan is a member of UNCTAD committee on the rights of the land-locked countries which is entrusted with the task of recommending measures to do away with barriers to the development of their trade.

unhappy about the talks because it felt the Americans were overlooking the "abortive North Korean assassination attempt against President Chung Hee Park" last month.

A joint communique issued after a meeting early Thursday between Vance with the South Korean president, said the two countries had agreed to determine promptly what action to take under their existing defence treaty if North Korea "aggression" against South Korea continued.

But there was no reference in the communique to reported South Korean proposals for a revision of the treaty or to a call by Seoul for a written U.S. commitment for immediate joint retaliation against any future North Korean "provocation."

HANOI RELEASES

3 CAPTURED AIRMEN; U.S. WELCOMES MOVE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17, (Reuter)—The U.S. State Department yesterday welcomed North Vietnam's release of three captured American airmen.

It said the men were on their way to Udorn air base in Thailand. "We welcome this release, indeed, State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said.

The three men, shot down in raids over North Vietnam, were identified as Captain John D. Black, of Johnson City, Tennessee, Major Norris M. Overly, of Detroit, and Navy Ensign David P. Matheny, of South Bend, Indiana.

McCloskey said he had no evidence that there might be more Americans freed later on, but added he wanted to "express a hope that this would lead to further releases."

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UNCTAD Gavel Silences S. Africa

NEW DELHI, Feb. 17, (Reuter)—Participants at the UNCTAD meeting in New Delhi had a surprise relief when the South African delegate to the conference, one of the very few who hitherto have not made any policy statement yet, said he was prepared to do so on Monday.

Actually he was scheduled to speak Thursday afternoon, but Conference President Dinesh Singh brought the meeting to an abrupt end when the South African chief delegate was preparing to speak.

After the adjournment he expected to be the first one to talk on Monday.

Since the conference opened three weeks ago there have been several walkouts by African, Asian, and Latin America countries in protest against South Africa's apartheid policies. Thursday's agenda had listed South Africa as the last speaker in the afternoon session.

Dr. Willem Naude, chief South African delegate, sat with one of his colleagues, waiting to be called as the last listed speaker completed his statement.

But, instead of calling South Africa, the conference president India's Commerce Minister Dinesh Singh, called on the Israeli delegate who had sought permission to make a statement.

After the Israeli statement the president called on the conference secretary to make some procedural announcements.

Immediately after the secretary had completed his announcement, Dinesh Singh sharply banged his gavel and announced: The meeting was adjourned until 10:30 a.m. (Friday) morning."

It was only 17:15 hours local—the earliest hour at which the conference has closed.

Iraq Buys French Armoured Cars

PARIS, Feb. 17, (Reuter)—France is to supply Iraq with 70 light armoured cars under an agreement completed during President Abdul Rahman Aref's visit to Paris last week, usually well-informed sources said here Friday.

There was no official confirmation of the contract from the Armed Services Ministry, which customarily leave such announcements to the purchasing country.

The sources said the contract was the result of negotiations started between the two countries at the end of last year.

The agreement does not contradict France's embargo on supplying arms to countries who fought in last June's Arab-Israeli war, since France does not consider that Iraq took part in the war.



THE KABUL TIMES

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Food For Thought

Necessity, who is the mother of invention.

—Plato

Soviet-French Cooperation

Soviet-French technical and scientific cooperation begun more than a year ago is already yielding fruits. Not only have scientists of the two nations visited one another's country to exchange information but also actual joint ventures seem to be underway.

These ventures can become a good example for other big powers of the world to follow. Since the fruits obtained so far though limited, are satisfactory and future prospects sound promising, it is worth looking at them more closely to find out how other nations might undertake similar fruitful ventures.

Talks are currently underway to implement a joint space exploration project in Moscow. Indications are that a French made satellite will be launched into space by a Soviet carrier rocket. Satellite will study the various strata of the atmosphere. Similarly Franco-Soviet geophysical studies are being conducted successfully in addition to the experimental transmissions of colour and black and white television programmes between Moscow and Paris through the Soviet satellite Molnya. Meteorology is another area chosen by the two nations for cooperation.

These common technical and scientific interests of the two nations are actually matters of common interest to all nations. There is no reason to believe that such joint ventures, the ultimate aim of which is to expand the area of knowledge of mankind, can not be shared by all. True interest in cooperation seems to be the only force which can result in the expansion of ties among the nations of the world. Although the policies of the two nations are not identical, or their social and economic systems similar, common areas of cooperation have been found.

Examples of cooperative venture between nations belonging to military and ideological blocs, nations embracing identical views on national and international affairs are common. But the type of cooperation manifested by the Soviet Union and France bridging the gap between the East and West, has been the main concern of the United Nations for the past 22 years.

Afghanistan, as a nonaligned and peace-loving nation, optimistically looks to the growth of cooperation among all countries and like many other countries believes that this is the only way to improve the possibilities of universal coexistence.

HOME PRESS AT A GLANCE

Today *Israh* carries an editorial and entitled "The Delhi Conference and Developing Nations." After referring to the fact that in spite of various efforts on the part of the United Nations and the developing countries themselves the gap between the have and have not is widening.

The editorial supported the view forwarded at the conference in Delhi that the only sure way of effectively bridging the gap is for developed countries to assume a direct responsibility in helping the poorer ones. This becomes possible only through a realisation that the widening gap referred to is contrary to the interests of the developed nations themselves, it said.

The same issue of the paper carries an article signed A.W. touching on the question of seasonal unemployment in this country. It says our farmers are idle for at least five months each year.

This amounts to 600 million working hours lost, says A. W. the write ricks. In terms of money this represents a loss of nearly Af. 19 billion. "Is it not possible to make such arrangements that these working hours are utilised on the farms in the hot-ter regions of the country where farming is possible during the winter season?"

The article mentions five regions in the country where winter farming is possible. The article suggests that an organisation be set up for diverting available labour to the areas where winter farming is possible.

The paper also carries a number of interesting letters to the editor. One signed Humayoun Froazan complains that Behazad cinema (a movie house in the older part of the Kabul city) operates an external loudspeaker for publicity purposes which is causing discomfort to the people living in the vicinity of the cinema.

There have been times said the author of the letter when I could not concentrate on my studies. Now it is impossible for the neighbourhood to go to sleep before midnight due to the agonising sound of the loudspeaker.

The letter called on the authorities concerned to quieten this social menace. Another letter signed Ah-mad Zia said that the public bath in Qala Fathullah Khan falls short of the minimum standard of cleanliness.

What is more it is always cold

unhealthy. A number of children are known to have caught pneumonia after taking baths there.

There is no excuse for the managers of this public bath to invite people to an unhygienic and cold public bath.

The municipality should put a stop to such a state of affairs, it said.

Thursday's *Heywad* carries an editorial on tree planting. Tree plantation which is a regular feature of the spring season, it said, has already started in some parts of the country. After discussing the importance of tree plantations in the strengthening of the national economy the editorial said the job is not complete with the plantation it-

sations concerned.

A young sapling is like a child when planted. It requires constant care and attention. It has to be watered at the right time and protected against goats and irresponsible hard's.

The editorial also mentions the fact that some people and organisations over emphasise their tree plantation activities in the news.

The number of tree planted in fact are far less than what is published in the papers. This practice should be given up since it will lead to mistakes in any statistics that may be prepared by the organi-

World Press

Washington's reckless policy that agitates the whole country is now severely criticised even by those who are placed high on the steps of the hierarchy," V. Kassis wrote in *Izvestia* commenting on the latest statements of a number of U.S. senators and diplomats who criticised the U.S. policy in Vietnam.

Scepticism about prolongation of the dirty war in Vietnam among U.S. senators "in the past two weeks was replaced by acute disappointment and direct dissatisfaction caused by new failures of military and political course of the U.S. government in Indochina, Kassis wrote.

The author mentions sharp criticism that contained in the speeches by Senator Robert Kennedy, Governor Romney, former Secretary of Health John Gardner and Senator Joseph Clark who several days ago returned from an "inspection tour" of South Vietnam, and former U.S. ambassador to Japan Reischauer who is regarded in the United States as an authority on Asian problems.

Amrita Bazar Patrika, of Calcutta said editorially:

Not many non-nuclear countries—at least those for which India has been serving as the spokesman—are likely to share the enthusiasm of either the British Prime Minister or the U.S. President over the Soviet-American agreement on the draft nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

Not that the super-powers are not aware of their views ... But these

have been totally ignored, presumably because both the U.S. and the USSR have come to the conclusion that the non-nuclear nations are only expected to sign along: the dotted lines whenever they are asked to do so.

Not only has the question of safety and security of non-nuclear nations been completely ignored; humiliating curbs have also been proposed on their freedom to use nuclear energy even for peaceful purposes.

While the nuclear nations are free to go their own ways, even peaceful nuclear activities of non-nuclear nations are to be subjected to rigid international inspection. Both cajoleries and threats have been used to induce the latter to fall in line the paper said.

"Today I am ashamed to be a West Indian" read a headline as the controversy over Kingston's test match riot continued to rage in the British newspapers.

The headline was over an article in the *Daily Sketch* by former West Indian cricketer Sir Lealie Constantine, in the West Indies commenting on the test series for the paper.

He wrote: "I am ashamed as a West Indian. I am ashamed because our good name and reputation as sportsmen has been cast down into the gutter."

Sir Lealie said the rioters who threw bottles at England player Colin? Cowdrey "were just ignorant who had no business in the Kingston match.

"Stand By" Order To 300 Mercenaries

By Peter Toohey

More than 300 mercenaries are ready to fly to Nigeria to help Federal troops crush the break-away Eastern Region, Biafra. Fully trained and equipped with modern weapons, the mercenaries—mainly British, Rhodesian and South African—have been ordered to "stand by ready for action".

The order—issued in the last week of January—came from Colonel John Peters, the Yorkshireman who took over from "Mad" Mike Hoare in the Congo and who since then has built up what is probably the world's strongest mercenary force.

Peters, for many months a "military adviser" to the Lagos government, alerted his troops after returning to London from the Nigerian capital, where he had a showdown with General Gowon, the Federal leader, over the employment of mercenaries. Gowon, aware of the possible consequences to his political career, had tried to avoid the decision to bring in the politically dangerous white soldiers; but Peters encouraged the Lagos "hawks" to force his hand. Gowon succumbed to their pressure.

I understand that the Lagos Government is now firmly committed to bring in the mercenaries if Federal troops suffer any reverses or if they fail to crush Biafra by the end of March. This conclusion emerged from an intensive inquiry into mercenary activities in Europe and Africa—an inquiry which took me from London, Geneva, Paris and back to London.

Gowon's reluctant decision to mercenaries was a personal triumph for John Peters. It ended a three-month propaganda war based on a deadly rivalry between English-speaking white mercenaries and the French and Belgian groups which have gone into the war on the Biafran side. There is nothing Peters would like more than an opportunity to prove that his troops are superior to those of "Black Jack" Schramme, Bob Denard and Roger Faulkes.

This is more than professional rivalry: it is nothing less than hatred. Peters sneers at the continentals, saying: "They are not feared. They only did garrison work in the Congo."

The rivalry goes back to the Congo, where the English-speaking mercenaries of Commando 5 claimed they were let down several times by the French and Belgians of Commando 6. But it also has a more recent connotation—the continentals have had regular well-paid work in Biafra for a couple of months, while Peter's men had been idling their time away in Cape Town and Durban Salisbury and London.

Just before Christmas one South African told me he was tired of "waiting for another war"; he was going to take himself off John Peter's books. Several others are known to have been recruited for Biafra by Major Alistair Wicks, who was in fact Mike Hoare's second-in-command in the Congo, or by a man called George Shroeder, an airline director who has played a vital part in transporting arms to Biafra.

For a time the Federal government in Nigeria was afraid of a rush of ex-Congo mercenaries to Biafra, and John Peter's job was to prevent this. Peters did the job willingly: it meant keeping his own force intact. He warned potential recruits to Biafra that they would be fighting him. Mike Hoare, who maintains he has no role in Nigeria but who has been invited—and gone—to both Biafra and Lagos, wrote an article for a London newspaper urging mercenaries to keep out of Nigeria's civil war.

"In my view," he stated, "the last thing that is required is the intervention of mercenary troops on either side and I strongly advocate all those who might be thinking along these lines to drop the idea". (At this stage only Biafra was recruiting mercenaries).

I am convinced Hoare is not playing an active part in the war, but during my investigations I discovered that Hoare had been offered a "large lump sum of money" to wage Biafra's war. He turned down the offer and the Biafrans then went to Denard and Faulkes.

Hoare has described Biafra's chances as "hopeless". He commented: "If they play an active role they're committing suicide; if they sit pat and play it passively they're facing genocide."

This point must have made sense to John Peter's soldiers. With only one or two exceptions they have remained loyal if without income. Loyalty however, is something Peters expects from his men.

At 40 he has come a long way from the Leeds slums where he was brought up. He is essentially an organisation man, competent in business as well as military matters (he was Tshombe's partner in several big property deals, and operates from his London flat as an international estate agent).

In the Zambesi Club, headquarters of Peter's mercenaries when they are in London, I spoke several of his men who virtually hero-worshipped him. They called him the "bravest man alive" and told me of his courage under fire in the Congo. They certainly were not prepared to

fight for Biafra if John Peters was to be on the other side. "It's no good being a dead hero."

Peters has said of himself: "I make money out of being a good soldier, commanding first-class troops. I respect my men and they respect me. I also have a responsibility towards them. Before we go in, whether it be in Africa, the Middle East or anywhere, it's my job to know exactly what the job entails."

"When we accept a job we go in to win. But we don't go in unless the money is paid into the bank in advance. Then we honour our commitments. We don't change sides halfway through a war". Arrangements for Peters's mercenaries to be paid, have already been made between him and the Federal Government.

He prides himself running his mercenary army as efficiently as any national force. He designates some rival mercenary leaders as cheaply-bought adventurers capable of switching sides in mid-battle if the money is right.

During my inquiry I had Peters's flat in a large London block of apartments watched. He seldom leaves the flat, where he lives with his wife, and when he does, it is often on an overseas mission. Two regular visitors during the time the flat was being watched were a South African called "Sandy" Simpson, who is Peters's chief recruiting officer in London, and an Australian journalist.

No sooner had news of Peters's definite commitment to Federal Nigeria reached by Biafrans than Roger Faulkes suddenly appeared in Paris. He had come to recruit more men, better men. Associates of his told me the Biafran mercenaries had suffered heavily in some of the recent fighting, particularly around Bonny. Faulkes was after ex-legionnaires, chiefly as replacements for his dead and wounded but also to boost the sagging morale of his troops.

But while the Biafran mercenaries are having their troubles there are, I found, few problems for the men who are supplying the Eastern Region with arms. Most of the Biafran equipment is purchased through a man known as Peirre Lorez. It is usually shipped to Lisbon—much of it is Czech—and then flown in Super Constellation aircraft to the island of Sao Tome. From there it is taken to Port Harcourt.

One Biafran shopping list I saw included large numbers of rifles, cartridges, machine guns, mortars, bazookas, hand grenades and other equipment. The "groceries" were estimated to have earned Lorez £ 500,000. (FWF)

Definite Chances Seen For Viet Talks

The Soviet Union seems to have decided there are now definite chances for a negotiated settlement of the Vietnam conflict.

Observers here draw this conclusion from, on the one hand, appeals by Tass and Pravda to the Washington administration to "seize the opportunity", and on the other hand, the recent talks in Moscow between National Liberation Front representative Dang Quang Minh and Soviet leaders Leonid Brezhnev and Nikolai Podgorny.

One of the effects of the recent Viet Cong offensive in South Vietnam has been to open up a diplomatic situation dominated by a rise in the status of the National Liberation Front, which now finds it-

self received at the Kremlin and sought by UN Secretary General U Thant.

After Hanoi's "green light", the Soviet Union may be tempted to convince both sides that it is now possible to reach a point from which negotiations may begin.

The attempt to bring this home to the United States is obvious. Despite the militant headlines, the Tass statement of Feb. 9 and the Monday's Pravda editorial amount to open letters to Washington bluntly calling on the United States to take the path of "reason and negotiation".

The belief that similar approaches have been made to the National Liberation Front owes more to spec-

ulation. But observers point out that such a move on the part of the Soviet leaders would be not only logical but also in line with Moscow's present position.

The Soviet demand for a negotiated settlement on the basis of Hanoi's 4-point plan and the 5-point NLF plan has been modified recently. A Pravda report on an interview with North Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh noted that "the only demand now is an unconditional halt in bombing."

Observers here believe this situation might enable the Soviet leaders to help prepare the way for negotiations between the two sides. (AFP)

Turkey Plans Building Bridge Over Bosphorus

The first physical link between Asia and Europe over Bosphorus will be a suspension bridge built by a British firm at a cost of over \$300 million which, if all goes according to plan, will be open to traffic in 1972.

The Bosphorus is a 20-mile long strait linking the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara.

It runs today through what is regarded as Greater Istanbul and, at its narrowest point, is only 1,800 feet wide.

The area is the cradle of many great civilisation. It was a prosperous metropolis long before Thracians attained prominence, and later became the seat of the Byzantine Empire, rivalling in importance for many centuries the "Eternal City" of Rome. Then came the Ottoman Turks, who made it the capital of one of the greatest empires in history.

But as fate would have it, the birth of the young Republic of Turkey witnessed Istanbul's wane as a centre of power and politics.

But the city remained an important commercial and trading centre, and the traffic across the Bosphorus today is greater than at any time in the city's glorious past.

Ever since the Americans built the great suspension bridges over the Hudson and San Francisco Bay, and the Australians built their bridge in Sydney, the Turks have been

thinking of building a similar bridge over the Bosphorus.

Initially, the enormous cost involved deterred the Government of Turkey from doing anything definite.

Later, there were many more important projects than the bridge. After all, many argued, there are excellent ferry services and the traffic runs smoothly even when gales sweep the Bosphorus. "So," the argument went, "why bother now? Let's wait for a more opportune moment."

To all this was added the reluctance of the proud people of Istanbul to mar the natural beauty of their city. The ferry boat and all that goes with it were part and parcel of life in Istanbul just as the Metro is in Paris and the gondolas are in Venice.

Indeed, successive mayors elected to office in Istanbul never dared put the issue before the people for fear of a negative vote which might shelve the issue for an entire generation.

Deep down, the people of Istanbul feel a nostalgia for the city's past which has bred a passion akin to fanaticism for preserving everything reminiscent of the past.

There was also the question of ferry services providing employment for a great number of people.

Run by the Turkish Denizcilik Bankasi, a State-controlled but commercial profit-making organisation,

the Istanbul city ferry and boat services are efficiently managed. There has never been a serious mishap, except for the blaze which gutted the Karakoy Pier three years ago when a Russian tanker exploded; even then there was no loss of life, and the pier was reconstructed with a speed that won well-deserved praise.

Now, the resignation to modernism and desire for convenience, have combined to bring the people of Istanbul to agree to a physical link connection which will enable motorists to cross the Bosphorus without interruption.

The Government of Turkey has been conducting negotiations for more than a year. Proposals were received from the Japanese, the Dutch, the British and the Americans. Then actual bids were invited, interested parties being required to submit plans of either a tunnel or a bridge.

A tunnel could have been built more cheaply—as much as 50 per cent cheaper, in fact—than a bridge. A railway line could also have been routed through a tunnel.

However, it has now been decided to build a bridge, rather than a tunnel. Why? Nobody knows exactly except architects themselves, who always manage to have their way in Istanbul's development projects.

(Continued on page 4)

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Cock-Sure Kabul Taxi Drivers Overestimate Pedestrians' Reflexes

Eleven years ago there were only 16 taxis in Kabul. Now there are exactly 2,790.

The fast-growing Afghan capital is rapidly catching up with big towns, taxi-wise and otherwise. It has got to because the far-flung sections of the town can be reached better by taxis.

1,200 taxis hogg around in the metropolitan areas and the rest commute between Kabul and the provincial centres that are served by asphalt highways.

In order to get his driving licence, a taxi driver has to produce his health certificate. Whether-permitting, driving tests are conducted twice a week throughout the year with some high officials of the Traffic Department supervising.

Four classes of driving licence are issued. Those who pass the test work their way up to first class within 12 years. Accidents and violations have a great deal to do with climbing the long ladder. Those who fail are entitled to try for another test on prescribed dates.

Every taxi driver is supposed to get renewed his vehicle's roadworthiness certificate. The fine imposed for a missing trafficator is as low as Af. 25, passing the red light costs Af. 100, and the maximum fine for collusion is Af. 3,000.

Under these conditions, village boys swarm in Kabul in the hope of making easy money and thus tax the patience of motorists and pedestrians alike. They generally find the self-moving carrier exhilarating to the point of ecstasy. Speeding on their part can be interpreted as an ostentatious compensation for the static mode of their past rustic existence.

A melange of rural naivete and newly-acquired sophistication change them into a bunch of crazy mixed-up kids whose demeanor most often than not gets beyond control.

Taking pride in possession or showing off, they hang a variety of strange-looking things and bizarre articles behind their window screens. The town-to-town commuters usually place two fat cushions behind their rear seats for passengers to dose off comfortably.

Speaking of blowing horns, it is absolutely scandalous. Soviet-made cars make most of the noise—a shrill high pitch—but take a good beating on all sorts of roads. They dominate the scene in as much as they comprise about 90 per cent of the fleet. Besides the Volgas, Moscovitch mini cars are economical and less noisy.

Other vehicles consist of varieties of old American and German automobiles. Some of these are repainted here and the word "taxi" is printed on them in different characters and varying shades.

As taxi drivers have no union yet, ordering a cab by telephone is not possible at present, but catching one on a main road is no problem. The point is that sometimes one has to holler or whistle in order to call a taxi speeding by. But this is not a unique phenomenon in this own. The little green light indicating that a certain taxi has no passengers is a great help in certain dimly-lit streets, especially when the Central Asian winds blow on one's face.

The custom to share the fare when different passengers go to the same direction has just crept in due to a number of reasons, one of them the typical oriental love of a bargaining.

A single passenger's fare within the town confines is Af. 20 which has the buying power for

almost a gallon of gasoline. However, petrol and diesel oil are measured in liters, as the distance is reckoned in kilometres.

There are no woman taxi drivers yet, but considering the growing number of ladies driving their private cars, it is anticipated that in the near future there will emerge some daring women who may take up this job as a protest against their domineering husbands. In that case, it would be better for them and everybody else to make up their minds when they come to the lights.

Kabul taxi drivers wear all sorts of garments, from the hippie-type wrinkled ill-fitting trousers and shapeless coats to the turbans. Very few of them are traditional costumes complete with clean-shaven, the rest leaving their beards alone for a couple of days or more.

A typical driver is neither talkative nor dumb. He is alert and eager to please but only plays his cards poorly when it comes to turnings at intersections. He is little informed about the right of way of the other drivers. Sometimes the passengers are in a hurry and prod the drivers to make haste and they politely oblige. In most cases, it is an error in judgment that causes them trouble. The cock-sure attitude of some drivers plus an overestimation of other people's reflexes may account for a number of accidents.

All in all, taxis in Kabul cost less as compared with other countries in the region and are quite safe. It is indeed very rare to hear a report about a taxi driver stealing something or robbing someone. On the contrary, one or two taxi drivers have been murdered by robbers for their day's earnings. But this is so rare that a taxi driver usually does not question his passenger's honesty of purpose.

A taxi driver's best friend is his radio which he usually turns too loud and forgets about it as soon as he grabs some passengers. For those who hire a long-distance taxi, radio is a great help to even out the monotony of scenery or of conversation. But in case the driver enjoys Indian music and the passengers don't, it would take a man to switch off the radio.

In the absence of a driving school and printed regulations, the taxi drivers are doing fine. Most of them manage to avoid trouble with the cops.

However, sometimes the law-enforcing officers stand idly by and stare with complete nonchalance as if they were mere spectators watching a parade whose orchestra

(Continued on page 4)



A typical Kabul taxi driver posing for a photograph near the Khyber Restaurant. He has a Volga car of the late models owned by an acquaintance.



With Waleh

Af. 15,000 For "Symbol OF Tranquility"

Many people in Kabul raise and fly pigeons. With some it is a hobby, with others it is a source of income.

In Herat, pigeons are allotted a special tower by the landed gentry for their manure.

Throughout Afghanistan, a pigeon is considered a symbol of beauty and tranquility and those who attach more importance to the other world associate pigeons and doves with sacred implications. Therefore tombs of saints are the gathering place of flocks of pigeons who are fed by the keeper or those coming for prayer. Shooting and eating a domestic pigeon is tabooed throughout the nation.

In older sections of Kabul many people raise pigeons and fly them twice a day. Mud houses with flat roofs are ideal for this pastime. Flying not only gives the birds physical exercise to keep them fit, it also has a side benefit and that is to lure other pigeons flying at the same time. Actually, it is a kind of aerial piracy in which a formidable bait is used and the practice is not punishable by law.

To make the pigeons fly, one has to use "chowry" a bunch of yak's bristles attached to a handle. By twirling it the pigeons are scared away and put to flight. The flock circle above the house usually for half an hour before the feeding time.

If one or two birds from another flock join one's pigeons, they are lured in two ways. By throwing such grains as corn or millet to the hungry birds, or by holding a pretty female bird in the hand and making it flutter. As soon as the pigeons come down from the top of a compound wall to the courtyard, they are immediately caught with a long-handle net.

The new acquisition is kept

in confinement with its mate or is paired with another pretty female for three days and fed a concoction containing a dose of opium. Pigeons generally behave like men when it comes to sex. Most of them are not strictly monogamous and therefore they are attracted by the fair sex not previously belonging to them. Thus, the moment they start "kissing", the new pigeons are assimilated in the flock. The process usually takes three days.

Those who raise and fly pigeons in the same section of Kabul may or may not have reached a gentleman's agreement to swap their new acquisitions. In case they have not, the loser has got to approach the man who has caught his pigeons in order to reacquire his own birds by paying a high price. This case is always treated on the basis of reciprocity.

Pigeons are classified according to the colour of their feathers and fall into three main categories: Shirazis, Patayan and Kolaghs.

Shirazi pigeons originated in Shiraz, Iran, and reached Kabul via Herat. They come in black, blue, beige, brown, maroon and burned orange colours. The best specimen has its head and both wings of the same colour but its tail is white.

Patayans come in the same colours as Shirazis, but a good specimen has some of its wing's long feathers and its tail in white colour and the rest in any of the main hues with white spots on it. Both patayans and Shirazis may have a little "hair" on their heads which indicates noble birth.

The best patayn is the one that its left wing and head come in one colour and the rest of its body in white.

Kolagh is a jet black pigeon with a pair of white eyebrows. The neater and more distinct the brows, the more precious the bird. The best specimen in this category is the one that has white eyebrows and a white tail.

Other categories in between are "amri", "khal" and "kamra" whose derivatives are beyond this article. An amri pigeon usually is all of one colour but it has three white feathers on each wing. Khal has a completely white body but its head in a different colour. Kamra is like amri but its tail is opaque like that of a turkey.

The most expensive pigeon is one that has one wing in maroon and the other in black. This would sell for as much as Af. 15,000.

Pigeons lay eggs after two weeks from mating and both males and females hatch the eggs by taking turns. The best time for hatching is autumn and the process takes between 15 and 18 days as hot weather spoil some of the eggs.

A pigeon reaches 30 years of age but it becomes rather pathetic in this stage. It can neither pick the grains nor fly as fast as the rest of the flock. So it should be hand-fed and sometimes killed for mercy.

Many Kabul boys have been fined or arrested by the police for throwing stones at other people's homes and breaking their window panes or by disturbing the privacy of their neighbours because they had to catch the attention of their birds sitting on an undesirable spot.

Evidently the police do not berate those who fly pigeons but still there are a number of shops that sell these birds.

Like flying kites from the rooftops, flying pigeons is a hobby and pastime for their fans and a nuisance for the neighbourhood.

But like other traditions, it is fading out as Kabul is getting more and more tin or concrete roofs not suited to the hobby and there is less and less time for it as modernisation marches on.



A Kabul hatter fixing a karakul pelt with his apprentice.

KABUL CITY SPANG FROM MIDDLE OF AN ORCHARD

Kabul of the Kushanid period in the second century A.D. was referred to by Ptolemy, a Greek historian, as Kabura. A thriving village situated on the ancient trade routes, it was built to the southeast of the present city along the northern bank of Logar river.

These trade routes led to Bactria in the north, Kandahar in the southwest and India in the east. So it was used as a halting place by caravans converging upon the strategic village.

The Kabul basin, now the site of the present Afghan capital, was probably used as a vast orchard and granary. Walls were built upon the ridges of the mountains surrounding the basin by the Hephthalite Kings.

These were fortified by the Brahmin Kings of Kabul prior to the Arab invasion of the principality. Emboldened by the dominating ramparts and aided by the severe winter, the Brahmins defeated the Arab armies twice. Each time the Arab commander had to pay a huge sum in order to be allowed to leave unmolested.

Kabul was conquered and its inhabitants were converted to Islam by Yakub Laith of the Saffarid Dynasty in 871 and thereafter all the Buddhist stupas dotting the small hills around the area were abandoned. Some of these were excavated since 1933, among them the stupa on Khair Khana Pass which yielded a great many relics and coins.

In 1504 Babur, the progenitor of the Moghul emperors of India chose Kabul as his political centre. It remained as such for 20 years before the centre of the empire was shifted to India. Babur built many parks in Kabul, among which is the Babur Gardens in Gozargah which he selected as his burial place.

Another park, Shahrara, near the Kabul Maternity Hospital also built by Babur has become a residential area while Babur's descendants, especially Jehangir, built the Jehanara Park on either side of the Kabul River in the area now occupied by the Nedjat School and the military workshops.

Some of these parks were destroyed by Turkoman hordes led by Nader Afshar but Ahmad Shah, the founder of modern Afghanistan in the early part of the 18th century restored Kabul's previous beauty.

He commissioned his commander-in-chief, Sardar Jehan Khan to repair and renovate parts of the town and its surrounding walls. Ahmad Shah's son, Temur Shah, shifted the Afghan capital from Kandahar to Kabul in 1773 upon the death of his father in a

retaliation against the disloyalty of some Kandahari chieftains regarding his right of accession.

Thereafter, Kabul as capital of the kingdom expanded rapidly and its population increased by leaps and bounds. The Afghan flag was hoisted from Kabul citadel, Balahisar, which witnessed many tumults later on.

Temur Shah's successor, Zaman Shah, built the Chilsotoon palace to the east of the citadel which was destroyed and later another palace bearing the same name sprang in a suburb of Kabul built by another king.

Amir Sher Ali who ascended the throne in 1863 paid a great deal of attention to the expansion of Kabul especially during his second reign and built the Sherpur Barracks among other things.

However, Kabul was systematically improved by Abdur Rahman (1880-1901) who built the Arg, the present Royal Palace and a number of palaces including Salam Khanah which was used as the seat of the National Assembly for many years till the Parliament Building was completed on Darulaman Avenue. The Baghe Bala Palace used by Abdur Rahman as his official residence is now being used as Kabul's most fashionable restaurant.

Abdur Rahman's son and successor, Habibullah (1901-1919) built Delkusha Palace and expanded the Arg. He built many places in Paghman, Jalalabad, Jabul Seraj and Laghman. His love for luxury and style is reflected in all the buildings built during his reign.

His son Amanullah, who ascended the throne upon the assassination of his father, laid the foundation of the New Kabul in the fertile valley of Cardch with two magnificent palaces, Darulaman and Taj Beg, the former now the Ministry of Public Works and the latter the Central Forces headquarters.

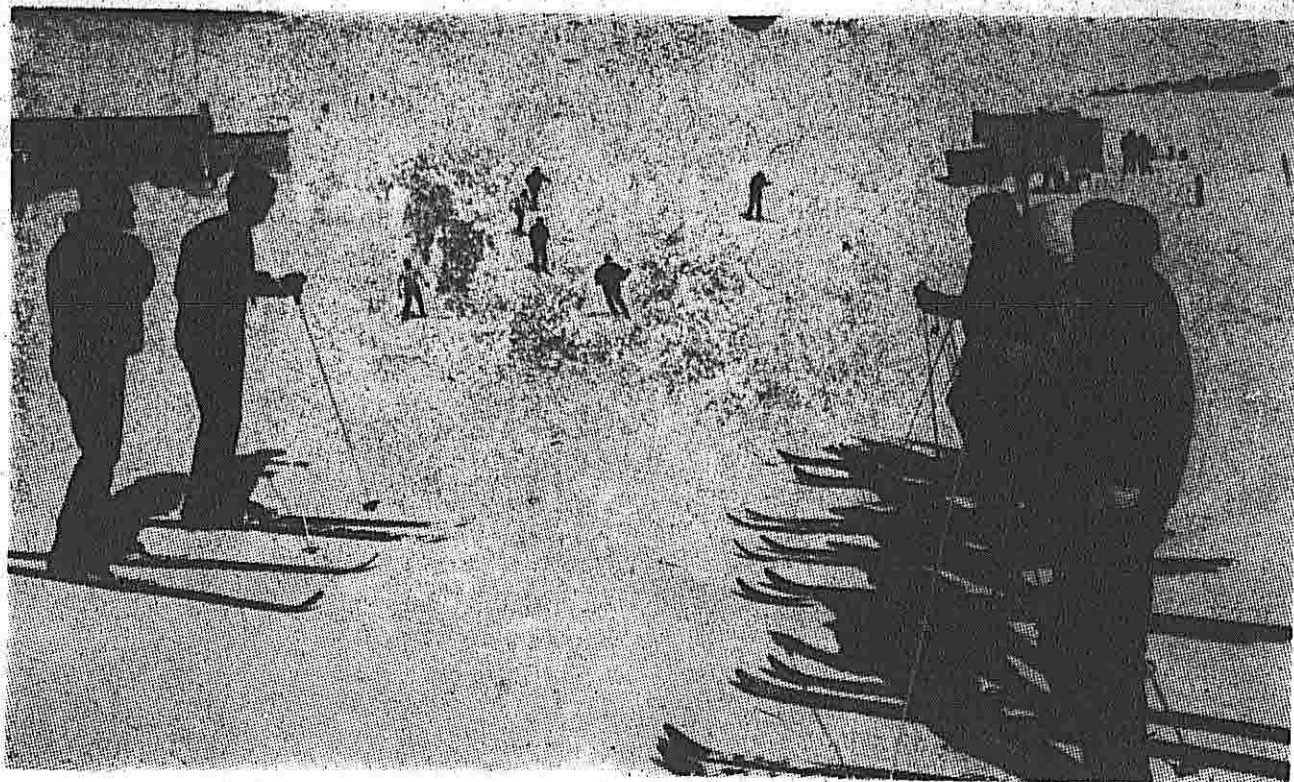
Amanullah's reign came to an end in 1928 and with it the modernisation drive was suspended for one year. It was resumed by the late King Nader Shah in 1929 who not only drove away a band of brigands ruling the country for nine months, but also improved upon the previous plans. His assassination however, in 1933 did not give him enough time to implement those.

The present Kabul with its modern buildings and asphalt roads owes a great deal to His Majesty the King who has encouraged town planning activities such as the Kabul 25 Year Development Plan.

Eleven years of the plan have already elapsed. By its end slums will be obliterated and the growing number of Kabulis will be provided with modern housing, shopping centres, water supply systems, transit roads and spacious parks.



A taxi stand on Pashtoonistan square.



Over 300 spectators and skiers took part in the 1st annual ski races at Chauki Ski Bowl yesterday. The record crowd enjoyed good skiing, fine weather and delicious food at the hill and lodge.

Events were held for men and women in 3 classes of skiers. Beginners, intermediates and advanced, and the winner each event was presented with "Victor's Cup" from Istait by His Royal Highness Prince Nader Shah, a member of the club.

Kabul Schools' Skiers To Hold Matches Next Friday

By Our Reporter

KABUL, Feb. 17.—After a decade lapse skiing courses conducted by the Ministry of Education have been once again revived. In this year's course, supervised by Eberhard Herbst, a West German peace corps volunteer, 25 students took part.

The eight week course will come to an end next Friday when the years tournament will be held in Chauki Arghandeh Ski Bowl.

Practice courses were held two days a week—Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Besides the 25 beginners, five intermediates skiers also took lessons.

Herbst will conduct the course next year and hopes that one of his five Afghan students who are all skilled skiers will take over when he leaves.

Herbst said that the students take a lot of interest in learning the sport but nearly all of them had "weak" knees.

More sports and more exercise can strengthen their leg muscle, he said.

Skiing equipment is supplied by the Ministry of Education and the German peace corps pay the bus fare to the skiing area which is about 15 km. east of Kabul.

In next week's tournament two matches will be held—one for the skilled and the other for the beginners. The winner will receive the Afghan skiing championship title.

Herbst said that on the average 40 cm. of snow are needed for skiing. This year they had about a metre snow which made skiing conditions favourable. Fortunately, except for some minor injuries there were no serious accidents.

Ceasefire

(Continued from page 1) was accompanied by the expulsion of 84 Jordanians from the West Bank of the Jordan and the arrests of many others, and by a new wave of torture in the Gaza Strip to force the inhabitants to quit that area.

Reuter adds: an unnamed third power acted as intermediary in securing a ceasefire along the Jordan valley, where Israeli and Jordanian forces fought an eight-hour battle with artillery, tanks, mortars and planes Thursday.

Authoritative sources said the third power conveyed to Israel a Jordanian ceasefire request as Israeli planes aided by flares, pounded Jordanian position long a 100 km. front. Israel accepted the request provided it was effective all along the frontier.

Jordan's acceptance came through at 2245 local (2025 GMT) and 15 minutes later orders to Israeli troops and planes to halt the fighting became effective.

Weather Forecast

Skies in the central and northern regions will be cloudy. Yesterday the warmest area was Jalalabad with a high of 19 C. 66 F. The coldest was Shaak with a low of -28 C, -19 F. Wind speed in Kabul was recorded at 5 knots yesterday. Yesterday North Salang had 2 mm rain and Farah 1 mm. The temperature in Kabul at 10 a.m. was -4 C. 25 F. Yesterday's temperatures:

Kabul	2 C	-12 C
Kandahar	36 F	10 F
	9 C	-1 C
Ghazni	48 F	30 F
	1 C	-19 C
	30 F	-2 F
N. Salang	21 C	-15 C
	21 F	5 F
Gardez	3 C	-16 C
	37 F	3 F
Kunduz	15 C	1 C
	59 F	30 F
Farah	16 C	4 C
	61 F	39 F



ARIANA CINEMA
film At 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 American film
ILVAREZ KELLY
PARK CINEMA
At 2:30, 4:30, 7:30 p.m.
LONG WAIT

Home Briefs

KABUL, Feb. 17, (Bakhtar).—The people of Deh Yaya, Bakhtyar, Paimonar, Khwaja Chasht and Tara Khail of the Deh Sabz district of Kabul have donated 2.5 acres of land in Deh Yaya village for the construction of a school there and have also accepted construction expenses. Until the school is completed one of the elders has given his house to be used as a school.

KABUL, Feb. 17, (Bakhtar).—A movie depicting the recent development of the armed forces of the Soviet Union, including manoeuvres, of the air and naval units was shown in the Soviet Embassy Wednesday. The Minister of Information and Culture, Dr. Mohammad Anas, and some officials attended.

KABUL, Feb. 17, (Bakhtar).—Soviet ambassador in Afghanistan, Constantine Alexandrov left for Moscow Thursday.

JALALABAD, Feb. 17, (Bakhtar).—Eng. Mohammad Akbar Reza, minister of agriculture and irrigation, yesterday inspected the Nangarhar Development Project.

GARDEZ, Feb. 17, (Bakhtar).—Minister of Planning Dr. Abdul Samad Hamed, inspected the Pakhtia Development Project Thursday. Hamed, accompanied by Deputy Abdul Sami, Sen. Ali Jan and Governor Lt. Gen. Mohammad Azeem, inspected progress on the water supply system for the city, the machinery used in the project, and the forests in the area.

Duels Across Hue's Perfumed River Still Going On Strong

SAIGON, Feb. 17 (Reuter).—The North Vietnamese and Americans still battling in Hue, a city of terror, fought artillery duels across the Perfumed River yesterday sending refugees scattering for cover, reliable sources said here.

Destroyers steaming in the South China Sea levelled their five-inch guns and poured shells into the ancient citadel where the North Vietnamese are still firmly entrenched.

Carrier-based navy jets, bombers, which rarely strike in South Vietnam, lashed the defiant North Vietnamese who still fly the red, blue and yellow flag of the National Liberation Front over the imperial palace.

U. S. Loses 10,000 In First Six Weeks Of Year

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17, (DPA).—American losses in Vietnam during the first six weeks of this year amount to more than 10,000 American soldiers killed, wounded or missing, it was announced here yesterday.

According to a U.S. Defence Department spokesman 1,674 American soldiers were killed in action in Vietnam between January 1 and February 10.

In the week ending February 10 alone, 400 American soldiers were killed, most of them in the Viet Cong Tet-offensive against Saigon and South Vietnam's big cities.

The Pentagon also reported that since the beginning of the war in Vietnam 936 American soldiers have been listed as missing. An additional 233 are known to have been taken prisoner.

SOFIA, Feb. 17, (DPA).—Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and his Bulgarian counterpart, Ivan Bashev discussed current international problems with special attention to European security, a communique issued at the close of Gromyko's visit said here yesterday.

Brezhnev Blames U.S. For Middle East Stalemate

COLOURED PARLIAMENT PROPOSED IN CAPE PROVINCE

CAPE TOWN, Feb. 17, (Reuter).—A government-appointed commission yesterday recommended stripping the nation's coloured—mixed race—population of all representation in the state parliament.

It urged strapping the system under which coloureds in the Cape province—where most of South Africa's 1,600,000 coloureds are concentrated—are represented by whites on the Cape Provincial Council.

The commission, in a six-to-four verdict, also proposed legislation to prohibit multi-racial membership of political parties—a blow to the small liberal and progressive parties both of which have some non-white members.

At the same time the commission recommended enlarging the powers and scope of authority of the existing coloured peoples representative council, making it in effect a largely elected coloured parliament.

The government plans to set up a coloured peoples' representative council which will handle a wide range of coloured issues including education, social welfare and pensions.

KARACHI, Feb. 17, (Reuter).—Students protesting against the publication of sketch of the prophet Mohammad in the United States yesterday ransacked the Bank of America building in Lahore and stoned the U.S. consulate-general.

An unofficial report said 28 people were injured when police charged with staves to disperse a demonstration crowded over 1,000 strong. An official report said several policemen were hurt by stones.

The official statement said the crowd had torn down the U.S. flag from the consulate-general.

Police used tear gas to disperse the crowd, which was chanting pro-Viet Cong guerrilla slogans, and threw a cordon round the consulate-general and information centre.

U.S. Urges Red Cross Access To Southwest Africans

UNITED NATIONS, New York, Feb. 17, (Reuter).—The United States proposed yesterday that South Africa allow International Red Cross representatives to have continuing and unimpeded access to 33 Southwest Africans imprisoned for alleged terrorism.

The proposal, from Arthur J. Goldberg, came when the Security Council resumed its debate yesterday on how to break South Africa's grip on Southwest Africa.

South Africa administers this huge territory in defiance of a UN resolution dissolving its League of Nations mandate.

The Security Council is primarily concerned with the fate of 33 Southwest Africans sentenced by a supreme court in South Africa last week at a trial regarded by the UN as illegal.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF KABUL ANNOUNCES ITS ANNUAL

George Washington Birthday Charity Ball

Thursday, Feb. 22, 1968

Kabul Hotel

Tickets: Af. 300 each

Dress: Black Tie

Time: 9:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.

Available at: ASTCO

INTERNATIONAL CLUB

AMERICAN EMBASSY

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WELCOME

TASK: Wishes To Thank

Pakistan International Airways

Pan American

Afghan Swiss Trading Company (ASTCO)

For the door prize, a weekend trip for two to Lahore.

World Briefs

BRUSSELS, Feb. 17, (DPA).—Belgium's air force will shortly be equipped with 106 French "Mirage V" jet fighters following a decision taken yesterday by the acting Belgian government under Prime Minister Paul Vanden Boeynants.

The aircraft will cost a total of \$ 150 million.

TOKYO, Feb. 17, (DPA).—A heavy snowstorm hitting about two thirds of Japan from Thursday to Friday brought the nations life to a virtual standstill, leaving 16 people dead, five missing and 29 injured in its wake Friday afternoon.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17, (AFP).—Gov. George Romney of Michigan yesterday accused his main rival to date in the New Hampshire republican primary, former Vice-President Richard Nixon, of taking a "me, too" line on the war in Vietnam.

CALCUTTA, Feb. 17, (AFP).—An express train killed 16 people and injured 13 others when it ploughed through a group of Hindu pilgrims crossing the tracks at Lakhiserai station near Patna city, Thursday night.

First reports said the express, bound from New Delhi to Calcutta, failed to stop after the accident.

An angry crowd later looted the station at Lakhiserai, smashing furniture and attacking station staff.

BOSPHORUS BRIDGE

(Continued from page 2)

It seems possible that the architects, who are ever conscious of the city's material beauty as opposed to the old timers who take pride in its natural charm, have argued that the first visitor to Istanbul from Europe should not be obliged to go underground and thus miss the grandeur of the Bosphorus. Rather, they must drive over a bridge and see everything.

The contract which was signed recently between the Turkish Ministry of Public Works and the British firm of Freeman Fox provides for a 1,500 metres long bridge with a main span of 1,100 metres. The total width will be 25 metres high to allow the free passage of ships.

According to the original plans, the bridge will carry four lanes of traffic, but is designed in such a way that this can be expanded to six lanes later. Along with the construction of the bridge, dual carriageways, underpass and many other facilities will be built.

Provision has already needed to build the bridge. By next January, everything will be decided—including the exact location of the bridge.

So far, the crossing point has been kept a secret to prevent speculation, although there is general belief that the bridge will be built from near Rumulu Hisar, the ancient Roman (and later Ottoman) fort.

Freeman Fox won the bid over the opposition of the U.S. firm of Amman and Whitney by bidding one million dollars lower. The British firm has built large suspension

bridges in England and Scotland, and reportedly gave good reasons in favour of a bridge rather than a tunnel.

The bridge will not mean the end of the ferry services because, although six lanes of traffic will eventually pass over the bridge, this will be barely adequate to cope with the growth in traffic by 1972.

The ferry boats will thus continue to be needed for transporting passengers and trains.

Even if the vehicular ferries are withdrawn from service, scores of ships carrying passengers from Karakoy to Kadikoy and from Yeni Cami to the various islands will still go about their business.

And the architects are taking great pains to site the bridge so that the city's skyline, with its beautiful mosques and other buildings, will not suffer greatly.

Taxi Drivers

(Continued from page 3)

derliness is no concern of theirs. This puts most of the drivers in a fix when they come to an intersection with no traffic lights.

This attitude coupled with some drivers having too much faith in heavens can be rectified by a set of rules and regulations which the Traffic Department should publish and enforce in the near future. The inscription "O Allah, I pin all my hopes on You" pasted on some switchboards is a pleading which smacks of ingratitude and is no guarantee against reckless driving.

Announcement

The Government of Afghanistan has received a loan from the International Development Association in various currencies equivalent to \$ 3,500,000 toward the cost of Education Projects in Herat, Kabul and Kunduz, and it is intended that a portion of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to payments under the contract (s) for which this invitation to bid is issued.

Payments by the International Development Association will be made only upon approval by the International Development of Afghanistan in accordance with the terms and conditions of the loan agreement and will be subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of that agreement.

Scaled bids will be received for construction of:

Education Projects at Herat, Kabul and Kunduz, each consisting of Sewage System, Water Supply and Electrical Distribution System; various structures for Administration, Classrooms, Dormitories—Agricultural and Electro-Mechanical Buildings; recreation and athletic fields. Areas of Structures will be approximately as follows:

Herat	12,500 m ²
Kabul	12,200 m ²
Kunduz	16,300 m ²

In accordance with plans and specifications prepared by Dalton-Dalton Associates, Architects and Engineers, 979 The Arcade, Cleveland, Ohio, 44114, U.S., and on file in the offices of the Architect and the Ministry of Education of the Government of Afghanistan.